

## CLAIMS

1. A method (30) for controlling a television signal receiver (20) having an  
5 emergency alert function with an associated setup process (31), said setup process  
(31) comprising:

receiving an input representing a geographical area (43); and  
providing a predetermined output when a distance between a reference  
point and a predetermined point associated with said geographical area exceeds a  
10 predetermined distance (44, 45, 46).

2. The method (30) of claim 1, wherein said geographical area is  
represented by a FIPS location code.

15 3. The method (30) of claim 1, wherein said reference point is a point  
associated with another geographical area.

4. The method (30) of claim 3, wherein said reference point is a center  
point of said other geographical area.

20 5. The method (30) of claim 1, wherein said reference point corresponds  
to a location of a transmitter which transmits emergency alert signals.

6. The method (30) of claim 5, wherein said predetermined distance  
25 corresponds to a transmission range of said transmitter.

7. The method (30) of claim 1, wherein said predetermined point  
associated with said geographical area is a center point of said geographical area.

30 8. A television signal receiver (20) having an emergency alert function,  
comprising:

a memory (27) operative to store data associated with said emergency  
alert function; and

a processor (27) operative to receive an input representing a geographical area, and to enable a predetermined output responsive to said input using said data in said memory (27) when a distance between a reference point and a point associated with said geographical area exceeds a predetermined distance.

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9. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 8, wherein said geographical area is represented by a FIPS location code.

10. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 8, wherein said reference point is a point associated with another geographical area.

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11. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 10, wherein said reference point is a center point of said other geographical area.

12. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 8, wherein said reference point corresponds to a location of a transmitter which transmits emergency alert signals.

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13. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 12, wherein said predetermined distance corresponds to a transmission range of said transmitter.

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14. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 8, wherein said predetermined point associated with said geographical area is a center point of said geographical area.

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15. A television signal receiver (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:

memory means (27) for storing data associated with said emergency alert function; and

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processing means (27) for receiving an input representing a geographical area, and enabling a predetermined output responsive to said input using said data in said memory means (27) when a distance between a reference

point and a point associated with said geographical area exceeds a predetermined distance.

16. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 15, wherein said  
5 geographical area is represented by a FIPS location code.

17. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 15, wherein said reference  
point is a point associated with another geographical area.

10 18. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 17, wherein said reference  
point is a center point of said other geographical area.

19. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 15, wherein said reference  
point corresponds to a location of a transmitter which transmits emergency alert  
15 signals.

20. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 19, wherein said  
predetermined distance corresponds to a transmission range of said transmitter.

20 21. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 15, wherein said  
predetermined point associated with said geographical area is a center point of said  
geographical area.